

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#12/B
T. Yeh
6-14-00

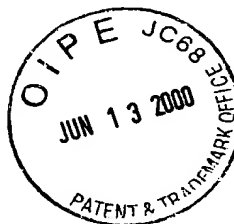
In re PATENT APPLICATION of

SHIFF et al.

Appln. No.: 09/006,999

Filed: January 14, 1998

Title: APPARATUS FOR THE SEPARATION . . .



Group Art Unit: 2856

Examiner: Cygan

* * * * *

June 13, 2000

AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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In response to the Office Action issued December 13, 1999, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

In claim 4, line 1, change "3" to --1--.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10-12 are pending. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borchardt et al. in view of Leu (USP 5,866,071). It is noted that there is no claim 13 pending. Claim 3 has been cancelled. With respect to the remaining claims, this rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner states that with respect to claims 1 and 3, Borchardt teaches the claimed invention except for the use of a particulate filtrate column. Applicants respectfully